

The Vision

The Primary Weekly Communication Instrument of
The United Baptist Church of Northern Virginia

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The United Baptist Church Vision is "to develop an intentional relationship with God, as in Jesus, so that our lives demonstrate the transforming effect and supreme importance of such a relationship for us, our society, and our world."

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Issue 25

Congratulations 2009 UBC Family Graduates!

We are proud of you for developing the gifts God has given you!

We pray God's blessing on you as you now begin to use these developed gifts for the creation of justice, as in Jesus, for all mankind!

COLLEGE:

Julia Daubert

(Audrey Mellott's Granddaughter)
Boston University
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Andrew Harris

(Wanda Harris' Grandson)
VCU School of Engineering
Computer Science Degree

Brice Lewis

(John Lewis' Grandson)
University of San Diego
MS Real Estate Development

Jamie M. Rhea

(Mickey Farrell's Granddaughter)
Marymount University
Doctor of Physical Therapy

HIGH SCHOOL:

William DePue

(Hester DePue's Grandson)
A Florida High School

Sara Lucille Fort

(Bernice Hummer's Granddaughter)
St. Stevens/St. Agnes

Hunter Harris

(Wanda Harris' Grandson)
A Richmond High School

Spencer Jennings Haymond

(Joy Petty's Grandson)
Glastonbury High School

Kyle Mills

(Irene Mills' Grandson)
Annandale High School

Brian Weedon

(Jean Weedon's Grandson)
Brentsville High School

Brittni L. Wienecki

(Jerri Campbell's Great Granddaughter)
John Hardin High School
Magna Cum Laude Academic Diploma

Unravelings...Wayne Yawn

It is a radical, yea dangerous, thing to take Jesus along with you as he says he is rather than as centuries of Christians and I myself have often preferred he be. Many of my spiritual kin prefer to think of Jesus as when we are desperate and say, "Jesus Christ!" Or, when we have just avoided a catastrophe and utter, "Thank you Jesus!" He is with us as the Jesus of "foxhole" confessions of faith. Our thinking is that we see no way out so we turn to Jesus to save our skin! "Jesus, keep us secure, safe or alive for another day!" It is popular to think that the purpose of religion (any) is to keep us safe. Attend worship to please God so when we really need help, God will show up with supernatural power. But the purpose of religion (any) is NOT to keep us safe. It is to enable us to live fully and abundantly by that religion's teachings. Humans are the god's subject, not the gods are the human's subject. I know, this statement is not the "normal" assumption. It is radical, especially in Jesus' stories.

Jesus' job was radical in this regard. His purpose was not to rescue or get people out of foxholes. He said his job was to make people live radical ways when compared to the normal ways of life, so that even those who already considered themselves living fully would live more fully and abundantly. And those who were not living what was considered normal abundant lives, would cease their current dreams of abundant living and start living Jesus' radical way of abundant living. For instance, in Mark 4:35-41, the disciples take Jesus up on his suggestion that they all get in the boat he has been teaching the shore crowd from about how to live the radical abundant life, and go to the other side of Lake Galilee. He is a carpenter. They are fishermen, and night fishermen at that! I can just hear them saying to themselves, "Okay, he's been talking about radical things that he says will give us a fuller life, let's see if he really believes this stuff." Radical things like treating your neighbor justly (with love) instead of taking advantage or clobbering him. He's been talking about turning the other cheek even to Roman soldiers when they make cruel, irrational demands on us. He's been talking about non-violence being preferable to using dominant power to make and assure peace. Let's just see if this holds up under "fire" or does he lose his integrity. So, Mark reports that they "take him into the boat just as he is" (that is, says he is, rather than as the messiah we know we need him to be with supernatural power to get us out of foxholes). They all get out on the lake and the typical nighttime violent storm "blows up" as surely fishermen expected, but not Jesus. But, where is Jesus? He's asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat. So, they wake him, not wanting him to miss being afraid. (He's missing the challenge they anticipated) They ask him, "Don't you care if we

drown?" Oh, and by the way, the text says there were other boats traveling in convoy with them. They knew they were not alone. Help from their stormy "foxhole" was nearby. Mark writes that Jesus calmed the storm. Or, did he not really still the violent storm's message of fear that the disciples were hearing from the storm? The fear message that they wanted Jesus to hear in order to motivate him to use the normal supernatural power they wanted, he refused. He confronted them with, "Why are you still so afraid [and] still have no faith?" He confronts them with their lack of faith in the kind of messianic life they took him on their boat advocating. Yes, taking Jesus along with you as he says he is can be dangerous!

Jesus got on that boat with them advocating the kind of life where what happens to US trumps what happens to ME. The life where forgiveness trumps retribution; where using personal gifts not to dominate and walk-over other people in order to get to the top of the social pecking order is trumped by using personal gifts by the type of love that is governed by what is needed, rather than by what feels good, so that everybody's life is full and abundant (and oh, yes, we then discover that our life becomes filled with that which really makes life full and abundant). Namely a life that is full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. The kind of life that would make the disciples stop and think about all the other people in those other boats in the storm with them, rather than just thinking about themselves; the kind of life that would heal the disciple's blindness about God and God's messiah with sight. The kind of life that would break down the walls of nationality, ethnicity, and gender normally used to empower and make one group of people superior to another group of people and instead to change people's way of life by seeing people as gifted by God with gifts that all people need to live abundantly, at peace.

And notice what the disciples did and said at the end of this challenge to Jesus that I suggest that they set up for Jesus (or was it he set them up). They said, "Who is this? Even the storm (or the fearful message of the storm) obeys him?" At last!! At last the disciples were really beginning to ask questions about their normal, incorrect expectations for a messiah. They were finally showing their curiosity, and embrace just a little courage. And curiosity (secular word for the Biblical word: humility) and courage (secular word for Biblical word: faith) are what the Spirit of Truth, Holy Spirit, or God look like in people. Jesus was radical! I think I need to stop trying to make him normal. Life might be fuller. But I need help. Your help! Well?

Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be **NO Youth Missions** on June 24. We will resume Youth Missions on July 1.

This week, in **Sunday School** class, we will complete the Amazing Bible Race quizzes for weeks 6 & 7. We will start week 8 on Monday June 29th. Try to complete some material at home this week and bring it to Sunday School on Sunday morning so that you can contribute to the group effort. Please bring your runner's log and Bible so that you will have the information you need for the quizzes.

If you would like to earn some **Disciple Dollars or need service hours for school**, please contact Twyla. Some of you have already talked to me about this and I have opportunities available. If others are interested or need hours please let me know so that we can help others and at the same time help ourselves.

PLEASE NOTE ---DATE CHANGES---

The youth **End of School/Summer Kick-off Pool Party** will be this Sunday, June 28. If you are attending, please plan on bringing a side dish or a dessert and something to drink. We will have pizza. The party will be at Kathi and Larry Crowder's house in Manassas. We will leave after church and return to the church approximately 8 p.m. Don't forget sunscreen, a towel and dry clothes to change in to for the drive back to the church. Parents are welcome and so are children. Children who want to attend a pool party should come to this activity. The June 30th party has to be rescheduled in July due to a doctor's appointment. If you plan to attend, please notify Twyla by email.

The youth will have their special focus **Mission Project** on Wednesday, July 1st. We will meet at the usual time of 6:15 p.m. to find out more about our location and to plan the activities that we will do with the young homeless children we will be ministering to during the summer.

July 1-2 will be a **lock-in** for the members of the **Amazing Bible Race Team**. We will be completing the team challenges of leg 1 in order to get credit for them for our team. If you are on the team please plan to attend this lock-in. Everyone is needed for maximum points.

Don't forget we will be going to **Kings Dominion** for **KINGSFEST** this year. We will go on Thursday, July 9th, the day that RELIANT K will be performing. Make plans now to attend. Details on cost will be available next week.

Children's Faith and Fun Day for the month of July will be on July 12th. Put it on your calendar now!! More details coming soon. Invite a friend to join you!

Vacation Bible School is coming this summer. If you have **any** interest in helping or attending, and have not yet spoken with Twyla, please do so immediately. Meeting dates for planning and preparation will be announced next week. Feedback from potential attendees and workers show that mid to late August will be a better time for our VBS this year, so we will be working toward that.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

June

- 24 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 25 4:30 a.m. Youth Leave for New York City Day Trip
- 27 Youth Paint Ball
- 28 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
12:20 p.m. Renovation Committee, Conference Room
1:00 p.m. End of School/Summer Kickoff Pool Party
- 29 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 30 Children's Fun Day/Pool Party

July

- 1 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

BUS TRIP TO THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

**Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of
Annandale-Springfield**

WHEN: Tuesday, July 28, board bus at 10:00 am

WHERE: Meet at Annandale United Methodist

WHAT: Tour of Washington National Cathedral

COST: \$20, paid in advance (by June 26)

Includes bus trip and tour of Cathedral

MAIL: To SCAS, 7610 Newcastle Dr.,
Annandale, VA. 22003

Include your name and phone number

Infor? Call 730-941-1419 or email

Shepherscas@vacoxmail.com

Appreciation

From the Shepherd's Center

Dear Pastor Yawn,

Greetings. On behalf of the Shepherd's Center Annandale/Springfield, thank you so much for the beautiful and poignant prayer you offered for the Lunch 'n Life [last week] on such a lovely summer day. Also, our sincere appreciation [to UBC] for hosting our seniors for this special occasion. It certainly was a memorable event which will be long remembered. Thanks again. Your hospitality was indeed appreciated.

Cordially,

Dayne Avrit